

Timely Tidbits ...

Dingell To Host Job Fair

Congressman John D. Dingell will host a job fair and assistance forum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, September 3, at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road). The free event is designed to be a one-stop venue in which displaced workers can meet with potential employers, and also access free counseling and services from various government and nonprofit agencies.

All residents of southeast Michigan are welcome.

Two Arrested in Robbery

Taylor police have arrested two men in connection with an August 18 robbery at a Charter One Bank at Goddard and Beech Daly roads. A third suspect is being sought.

According to police, two men entered Charter One at about 1:38 p.m. One man brandished a dark semiautomatic handgun and threatened the bank employees, while the other one jumped the counter and began grabbing \$50 and \$100 bills from the tellers' drawers.

Both fled on foot from the bank, going east. Witnesses told police they got into a white minivan.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call the TPD at 734-374-1404 or 734-287-6611.

Canned Food Drive

Working For The Lord Ministry will host a canned food drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, September 6, at the American Legion (11800 Michael Street in Taylor). A "Bringing in the Harvest Concert" will feature six live bands playing rock, country, blues, and oldies. Refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome to bring canned goods and join in the fun.

Call 734-231-3622 for info.

Volunteer for BINGO

Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth is looking for volunteers to help with the annual Frank Ayers Memorial BINGO Benefit for the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund. (See story at right for details.) For information, call Wadsworth (734-941-0616) or Joe Ozog (941-3466). □

Parade of Lights, Pumpkin Fest Promise Fall Fun for All

Both residents and visitors from other communities are invited to attend the 13th Annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival, which will be held in the city's downtown district (along Goddard Road between Hunt and Romaine streets) from September 18–20.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

On Friday, the festival will kick off with the 11th Annual "Parade of Lights" – a shimmering spectacle that will depart from the City Hall parking lot (Wayne Road south of Goddard) at 8 p.m. The parade will wind south along Wayne Road to Bibbins, west to Gabriel, north to Goddard, west to Five Points, and end at the Romulus Progressive Club (11580 Ozga). Last year's parade was an enormous success enjoyed by thousands of onlookers, and this year's event promises to be bigger and *brighter* than ever!

According to the Romulus Rotary Club, which sponsors the parade, prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in each of four categories:

- commercial
- noncommercial – motorized
- noncommercial – nonmotorized
- schools

Voting for the 2009 winners will be the same as last year. Beginning on Saturday morning, photographs of each entry will be displayed at the Rotary's festival booth, and interested individuals will be able to cast their ballots for their favorites. Voting will end at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, and winners will be announced on the main stage at 4 p.m.

To download a parade entry form, visit www.romulusrotary.org. The deadline for registration is Thursday, September 17.

* * *

The remainder of the weekend will feature entertainment, games, contests, hayrides, craft exhibits, and other street-fair attractions – and, of course, pumpkins. You won't want to miss a minute of fabulous, family-oriented fun!

The following is a *tentative* schedule of events for the Romulus Pumpkin Festival; schedule is subject to change. For further details, including contest rules and a copy of the City's "special events" ordinance, pick up a festival booklet, which will soon be available at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road).

PRE-FESTIVAL FUN

This year, festival fun will be extended with some pre-weekend events held at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) on Wednesday, September 16. These special events will include:



The 13th annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival will feature entertainment, games, contests, craft exhibits, and other street attractions ... and, of course, pumpkins. For more information, visit www.romulusgov.com or call the Pumpkin Festival Hotline: 734-955-4577.

- **Pumpkin-decorating Contest** – Carve or paint a pumpkin, then drop it off at the Senior Center between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. This year's theme: "Happy Nights."
- **Family Fun Night** – Movies, games, crafts, face-painting, and refreshments will be featured from 6 to 9 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$2 donation; benefits the Romulus Historical Society.
- **Bunco Night** – Admission to the bunco tournament, set for 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., will be a \$5 donation.
- **Euchre/Bid Whist Night** – Admission to these tournaments, set for 7 to 9:30 p.m., will be an \$8 donation. Preregistration is required for all events.

CONTESTS

One of the highlights of most fall festivals is a celebration of nature's bounty, and the Romulus Pumpkin Festival is no exception. Baking and canning contests allow men and women to show off their skills in domestic arts that are regaining popularity, while pumpkin- and sunflower-growing contests bring out the backyard gardener in many.

All entries must be brought to the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) by 3 p.m. on Friday, September 18. Winners will be announced at the Hospitality Tent on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

This year's contest divisions will be:

- **Canning** (tomatoes, green beans, pickles, and fruit)
 - **Pie Baking** (pumpkin, sweet potato, apple, and peach)
 - **Pumpkin Growing** (largest)
 - **Sunflower Growing** (largest face and tallest – single blossom only)
- There is no charge to participate.

OTHER COMPETITIONS

Other youth and adult competitions – including those listed below – promise to provide good, old-fashioned fun. Unless otherwise noted, these events will be held at Romulus Historical Park (Goddard and Hunt). There is no charge to participate.

- **Pumpkin Rolling** (Saturday at 12:30 p.m.)
- **Sack Races** (Saturday at 1:30 p.m.)
- **Treasure Hunt** (Saturday at 2:30 p.m.)
- **Punkin' Chuckin'** (Saturday at 3 p.m. at Goddard and Romaine; adults only)
- **Giant Airplane Races** (Sunday at 12:30 p.m.)
- **Marshmallow Races** (Sunday at 1:30 p.m.)
- **Pie Eating** (Sunday at 2:30 p.m.)

CRAFTS

Numerous booths featuring beautiful handmade crafts will be found along the streets throughout the festival. Visit www.romulusgov.com to download an application for booth space.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

Taylor Resident Has Praise for Romulus Athletic Center

To the Editor:

Just wanted to drop you a line to express how much I enjoy the facilities at the Romulus Athletic Center. It's very clean, well run, and a great facility overall.

I have met many very nice, friendly people at the club. I have been a member since last November. The club is a real asset to the City of Romulus. It keeps young and old active and in shape. It also keeps health care costs down for us seniors by getting us healthier. It's great to see so many people using the facility, both young and more mature people alike.

Once again, congratulations on the great facility. Thank you, also, for letting neighboring city folks like myself have the opportunity to belong.

Ray Sullivan
Taylor

Romulus Rec Programs Solved Summer Dilemma

To the Editor:

This summer, I was faced with a dilemma that I'm sure is shared by many parents of middle- and high-school-aged children: What can I do with my child all summer long when he/she is too old to be left with a sitter, but perhaps too young to be left home alone all day every day?

Romulus Recreation to the rescue! During the month of July, the Recreation Department offered a program for seventh- to tenth-graders. The program ran Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some limited options for extended supervisions for parents who needed a few extra minutes to get to the RAC (Romulus Athletic Center) to pick up their children.

Each day, the kids were bused to venues offering age-appropriate entertainment – movies, skating, bowling, water park activities, canoeing, and even laser tag. Thursdays were reserved for events that included horseback riding, whirleyball, and a Detroit Tigers baseball game. Although there were additional fees for the Thursday trips, they were reasonable – as was the total program cost of \$80 for Romulus residents.

The kids were supervised at all times by responsible staff that treated the youth with respect and exhibited a genuine desire to be around teenagers. Personnel in the office were knowledgeable and helpful, and the kids seemed to love their bus driver. Teens were allowed to exercise their independence, but required to practice personal

responsibility. They had opportunities to make new friends, visit new places, get exercise, and have experiences they might not otherwise have. The program was more than what I had hoped for, more than just something to keep my teenager busy.

And, along with the highly recommended Middle School/High School Summer Recreation Program, the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department offers summer programs to elementary-age children, and other programs throughout the year that deserve community-wide support.

I grew up in Romulus, and while the City has always offered a recreation program, today's Romulus Rec has done an outstanding job in keeping up with the times and expanding the program to offer some of the best recreation and entertainment opportunities in the area.

Keep up the great job – and thank you!
Jill Martin
Milan

Some Well-deserved Thanks for Some Jobs Well Done

To the Editor:

We would like to extend a "thank you" for some very nice things that are going on in downtown Romulus.

- Thank you, Downtown Development Authority, for the new four-face clock at Five Points. What a nice addition to the area!
- Thank you again, DDA, for providing the funds for the repair and painting of the Kingsley house in Romulus Historic Park. It looks great!
- Thank you, DPW, for keeping Historic Park looking so nice. It was the perfect setting for the Sounds in Downtown summer concerts.

If you haven't been to downtown Romulus and visited the park, we hope you will. There is a neat "little red school house" that is a museum, as well as historic Kingsley house. They are open each Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free; donations are always welcome.

Sheldon and Gloria Chandler
Romulus

Caller Threatens Volunteer at Mayor's Campaign HQ

To The Editor:

There are many falsehoods being bandied about with respect to the upcoming elections in Romulus. I am writing to you to set the record straight on at least one of those issues.

I am a volunteer with Mayor Alan R. Lambert's campaign, and, as such, I received a call at the campaign office on Thursday, August 13, at 4:24 p.m. The caller "blocked" his phone number, so our caller

ID could not immediately identify the source. This caller – who claimed to be a "north-end supporter" of mayoral candidate Harry Crout – alleged that I and my "night riders" were stealing Mr. Crout's signs, thereby making the election unfair. The caller went on to state, "We in the north end won't tolerate an unfair election, and we will eliminate people until it is fair, starting with you."

Obviously, the police were called. After an extensive investigation, which included subpoenaed phone records from Comcast, a suspect was identified and brought in for questioning. I was made aware of the outcome of the investigation, and, after much deliberation, I have decided not to pursue criminal prosecution at this time.

I have decided that the suspect in this matter, although obviously disturbed, does not pose a serious threat to my safety. Further, I do not believe it will serve the greater good of the community to spend thousands of tax dollars to prosecute him at this point. However, as I have stated to the detectives handling the matter, I reserve my right to sign the complaint should the harassment and threats continue.

It is time for the candidates and their supporters in this election to stop the petty games, and focus on debating actual issues that will better our community.

Robert W. McLachlan
Romulus

Crout Supporter Issues Moral Challenge

To the Editor:

I am a supporter of Harry Crout for our next mayor. Recently, the Harry Crout sign on my property was vandalized. Out of curiosity, the next day I drove around our city, only to find that the vast majority of theft and vandalism ended up being against Harry Crout signs.

So I now issue two challenges to the person(s) responsible for this cowardly act.

1) Please work very hard for the candidate that you have chosen to back, just as I will continue to do, *but please do it legally!*

2) Challenge your self-respect, dignity, and basic moral fiber, values, and ethics. The persons doing this have compromised themselves as respectable citizens.

Craig Plank
Romulus □

the little paper

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The little paper invites individuals and organizations to submit articles and letters that may be of interest to its readers; however, *the little paper* is not responsible for the content of such material, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. *The little paper* reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, inaccuracies, misspellings, and grammatical errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *the little paper*. All letters, commentaries, and other submissions must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

The little paper reserves the right to run special advertising rates for each area covered by its distribution without effect on normal contractual rates.

The little paper will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to residents in its distribution area on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, *the little paper* is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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Guest Commentary

Paige Seeking Election to Treasurer's Office

Dear Romulus Residents,

My name is Stacy Paige and I am running for Romulus City Treasurer. I have been a Romulus resident for 29 years, graduated from Romulus High School and currently work for Romulus Community Schools. I am committed to our community and would love the opportunity to serve you as your City Treasurer.

Over the years, I believe Romulus has grown and become a better place to live and raise a family, as well as a place to invest and grow new business. One of my goals would be to work to maintain that goodness for future families, and to help the City Council and management improve the City make-up so that it better serves our community.

As Treasurer, I will:

- utilize my background in information systems to incorporate the latest technology into the Treasurers' Office.
- improve customer service, making the Treasurers' Office more "user friendly".
- implement efficient use of resources to reduce cost of services.
- strive to obtain the most competitive banking rates to save costs.

I believe this position will also include good management, teamwork and leadership with the staff, as well as improved customer service. This is the "lifeblood" of any business. It is imperative that every cus-



Stacy Paige

tomers is greeted with a genuine smile, listened to and understood. I will provide customer service that exceeds our customers' expectations.

I would truly appreciate your support with my endeavors of running for City Treasurer. I look forward to working with you and for you.

For more information, I encourage you to visit my Web site - www.sapaige.com - or contact me by phone at 734-955-9089.

Best Regards,
Stacy Paige

Guest Commentary

Craig-Bragg Running for City Clerk

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Ellen Craig-Bragg and I am a candidate for Romulus City Clerk. Four years ago, you elected me to the City Council. I have worked diligently to serve with integrity and accountability.

My experience on City Council has given me the privilege of working collaboratively with other elected officials to improve the quality of life in Romulus, and has allowed me to be an inspiration and role model for students and women interested in local government.

One of the Romulus community's unique qualities is its diversity of residents and the ability to co-exist with respect to each other's cultural differences. Every individual should have the opportunity to have a voice and make a contribution to the progress and quality of life in the community in which he or she lives.

I am a wife and mother of three children; I have been a resident of Romulus for 14 years, and have been employed with Romulus Community Schools for 12 years.

I am also an active, committed volunteer in several community groups, including the Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee, Martin Luther King Day Celebration Committee, Romulus Arts Council, NAACP (Western Wayne Branch), Romulus Democratic Club, Union Grove Baptist Church (choir director), and Romulus High School Choir Club (advisor and director). My motivation for such a wide range of community involvement is, "There is no greater gift to humanity than voluntary service."

My experiences serving on City Council, working for Romulus Community Schools, and participating in various community organizations has provided me with considerable insight, and has prepared me to serve in the capacity of City Clerk.

As City Clerk, my objective is to create a professional, customer-friendly environment, and provide quality services for businesses and residents by implementing the



Ellen Craig-Bragg

following goals.

- **Create a True "Team Concept" Work Environment** - ensuring that all staff is informed, and can answer questions for residents and business visitors.
- **Initiate Voter Registration Drives** - particularly targeting graduating high school seniors.
- **Provide Senior Citizen Assistance** - with voter registration and absentee ballot information.
- **Improve Record-Keeping Technology** - for accuracy and efficient access to our public records and city ordinances.
- **Improve Web Resources** - with online availability of forms and applications, as well as useful links to County, State, and other Web sites.
- **Implement Electronic Council Packets** - to help reduce costs, conserve paper, and provide efficiency.

It will be an honor to serve you as the next Romulus City Clerk, for I am committed to our community and dedicated to its progress. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Councilwoman Ellen Craig-Bragg

Romulus Chamber Hosts Golf Outing



(From right) Dave Goodwin, chairman of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Outing, presented the first-place prize to Mark Winkelman, Don Slusarski, Leo Wall, and Danny Wall of the ETC Environmental Services and DKP Buffalo team. (Not pictured) Second place was taken by Mike Cochran, Jay Fontaine, Eric Lambert, and Ryan Romak of the Pamar Enterprises team; third went to David Bell, Mike Bell, Geoff Keyes, and Tim Keyes of the Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment team. Altogether, more than 70 golfers braved rainy weather to participate in the event, which was held August 20 at the Woodlands Golf Course in Wayne. Photo by R. E. Kadan

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Romulus Pumpkin Festival Promises Fall Fun

continued from page 1

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Since St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Ozga and Neville) is no longer hosting a fall festival of its own, it will hold its annual White Elephant Sale in conjunction with the Pumpkin Festival on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m.

USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library's semiannual Used Book Sale will feature real bargains.

On Saturday from 12 to 6 p.m., and from 12 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, shoppers will find adult hardcovers for \$1.50, adult paperbacks for \$.50 to \$1, children's hardcovers for \$.50, children's paperbacks for \$.25, and DVDs/videos/CDs/records for \$1.

Even bigger deals will be available on Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m., when shoppers can fill a sack with books for just \$2.25.

The event will be held at Goddard and Olive.

BINGO AIDS SHELTER

The annual Frank Ayers Memorial BINGO benefit for the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund will be held at the Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) according to the following schedule:

- Friday from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- Saturday from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- Sunday from 12 to 7 p.m.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- **3-on-3 Basketball** (Mary Ann Banks Park, Goddard at Five Points; Saturday, 10 a.m.)
- **Cruisin' 2009 Car Show** (Goddard and Hunt; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; to enter, call 734-941-1727)
- **Third Annual Tractor/Lawn Tractor Show** (Goddard and Hunt; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine)

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live entertainment at the Romulus Pumpkin Festival – performed on the main stage unless otherwise noted – will include:

FRIDAY

- *Second Wind* (6 p.m.) – rock
- *Trilogy* (9 p.m.) – Top 40

SATURDAY

- *Sliver* (11 a.m.) – classic rock
- Karate Demonstration (12:30 p.m.)
- Tai Kwon Do Demonstration (1 p.m.)
- *Shirley Franklin & the Delta Drive Band* (2 p.m.) – blues

HUGE MOVING/ESTATE SALE

11128 Olive Street, Romulus

Friday, August 28, 12 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 29, 8 a.m. to ?

Antiques, furniture (new & old), glassware, kitchenware, linens, holiday items, lighthouse items, medical supplies, and much more

- *Fiddlers ReStrung** (3 p.m.) – Celtic, bluegrass, and American folk
- *The Flying Latini Brothers* (3:30 p.m.) – Top 40
- *Tyrone Hamilton** (4:30 p.m.) – Top 40
- *Hines Drive* (5 p.m.) – classic rock
- *ChillFX** (6 p.m.) – jazz
- *Groove Essential* (6:30 p.m.) – old-school funk
- *Straight Ahead** (7:30 p.m.) – jazz
- *Starfire* (8 p.m.) – classic rock
- *Channel 6* (9:30 p.m.) – Top 40

SUNDAY

- Inspirational Service (10:30 a.m.)
- Step Forward (12 p.m.) – children's dance group
- Step in Line (12:15 p.m.) – adult dance group
- Calvary Baptist Church Band (1:30 p.m.) – inspirational
- *Waco* (4:30 p.m.) – country

*in Historical Park (Goddard and Hunt)

HISTORICAL PARK

The Romulus Historical Society and Romulus Historical Commission will co-sponsor the following free events in Historical Park (Goddard and Hunt).

Saturday

- **Candle-making Demonstration** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) – Children may participate in making their own candles.
- **Kids' Games** (11 a.m.) – Old-fashioned lawn games and a checkers contest will be featured.
- **"Balloonmeister"** (2 to 4 p.m.) – Marc Meyer will make balloon animals for children.

Sunday

- **Kids' Games** (11 a.m.) – Old-fashioned lawn games and a checkers contest will be featured.
- **Craft Demonstrations** (12 to 5 p.m.) – Old-fashioned crafts such as tatting, rug-hooking, and crochet will be demonstrated.
- **Tours/Exhibits** (12 to 5 p.m.) – The Romulus Historical Museum, historic Kingsley house (including secret trap doors), and the Wabash Railroad freight house will be open for tours.
- **"Golden Griffon Stringtet"** (12 p.m.) – Traditional music featuring guitar and hammered dulcimer will be performed.
- **"A Walk Through Romulus History"** (3 p.m.) – Students from Barth Elementary School will perform on the freight house stage.

FABULOUS FOOD

- **Pancake Breakfast** (7 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Romulus Senior Center, 36525 Bibbins) – Hosted by Boy Scouts Troop #872.
- **Spaghetti Dinner** (4 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Community United Methodist Church, Olive and Bibbins) – Children under 5 eat free!
- **Steak Dinner** (Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. or while supplies last at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Ozga and Neville) – Tickets are \$10 per person. □

☆☆ Re-Elect ☆☆

LeRoy D. Burcroff

Romulus City Council



General Election
November 3, 2009

During these critical economic times, ***experienced leadership*** is what our city needs.

Lifelong resident LeRoy Burcroff is the man for the job because he is:

- committed to serving our community,
- a man of strong faith and family values,
- a successful professional with a strong work ethic,
- qualified and experienced,
- a man of integrity and proven leadership.

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BELLEVILLE & ROMULUS FALL 2009 CLASS SCHEDULE

	Date Start:	Date End:	Time Start:	CR Days:
ROMULUS				
Segment 1	09/21/09	10/08/09	2:45-4:45 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
Segment 1	10/26/09	11/12/09	2:45-4:45 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
Segment 1	11/30/09	12/17/09	2:45-4:45 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
BELLEVILLE				
Segment 1	09/07/09	09/24/09	5:30-7:30 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
Segment 1	10/05/09	10/22/09	5:30-7:30 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
Segment 1	10/26/09	11/12/09	5:30-7:30 pm	M, Tu, W, Th
Segment 2	09/29/09	10/01/09	5:30-7:30 pm	Tu, W, Th

Back-to-School SPECIAL!

Segment 1 - \$285.00

Get started with only \$100 down!

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Segment 1 is a three-week course including 24 hours of classroom instruction and 6 behind-the-wheel driving sessions.

Segment 2 is a three-day course including 6 hours of classroom instruction. Segment 2 is the second course new drivers complete 90 days after completing segment 1.

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www.thedriversadvantage.com

for further details, or call 734-699-2290

and find out how you can get

Segment 2 FREE! (restrictions apply)

**New teen drivers must be
at least 14 years and 8 months old
to participate in drivers training.**

We also offer adult drivers training for new drivers over 18 years old. Please call for additional information.

Grant Will Fund Creation, Distribution of Free Fire-prevention Calendars

The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society has received a \$4,000 fire prevention grant from FM Global, a leading property insurer based in Johnston, Rhode Island.

FM Global representatives presented the award to Fire Marshal John Hager of the Taylor Fire Department on August 6. Hager, who wrote the grant, is on the executive board for the statewide organization. He designed a fire-prevention calendar that is currently in the printing phase of the project. Hager said that 21,000 calendars will be distributed to fire departments throughout the State of Michigan and then given away, free of charge.

According to Hager, this award for the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society will be used to assist with the funding of the calendars in an effort to educate communities; and reduce the number of fires and injuries due to fires across the state.

"It has been a very interesting experience, and a lot of work has gone into the designing, fund-raising, and printing process, but if it saves one life or prevents one fire within the City Of Taylor or any other community, then it was well worth every minute," he said.

Michigan Fire Marshal Ron Farr said the calendar will educate and increase awareness.

"Most fires and fire-related injuries are attributed to a lack of fire-safety knowledge, disregarding safety procedures, or simply using poor judgment during a fire emergency," Farr said. "The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society's 2010 Fire Prevention

calendar will raise the level of fire-safety awareness to each and every recipient."

Because fire continues to be the leading cause of commercial and industrial property damage worldwide, FM Global spokespersons say the company has contributed millions of dollars to fire services and related agencies around the globe, working to prevent fire for more than three decades.

Locally, the company has awarded grants to a number of Michigan-based groups.

"At FM Global, we believe the majority of property damage is preventable – not inevitable – and we are pleased to make funding available to organizations like the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, which shares the same philosophy," said Michael Spaziani, manager of FM Global's Fire Prevention Grant Program. "After all, it's much better to prevent a disaster than to recover from one."

FM Global's highly competitive Fire Prevention Grant Program awards grants quarterly to fire departments – as well as to national, state, regional, local, and community organizations worldwide – that best demonstrate a need for funding, as well as where dollars can have the greatest impact on preventing, preparing for, and controlling fire in the community. □

WANTED!

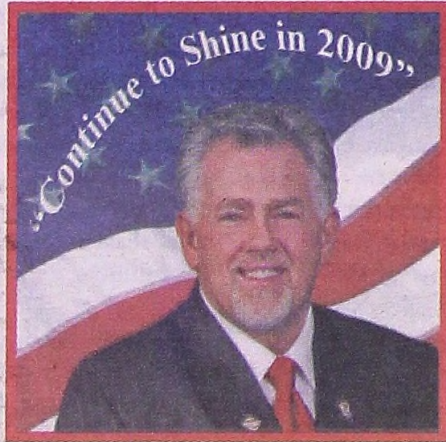
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Volunteers Plant Midtown Butterfly Garden



(From left) Butterfly garden gurus Perry Durham and Mary Krezczkowski, Midtown Brownstone Condominium Association vice president Rick Flood, Cultural Arts Commissioner Erin Dobbins, Condo Association president Jim Bentz, property manager Mike Ward (KS Management), Midtown Brownstones resident Crystal Hill, Taylor City Councilmen Butch Ramik and Rick Sollars, Beautification Commission members Michele McNeely and Connie Fedel, and Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe were among those who took part in the planting of a butterfly garden in the Midtown Square Park on August 22. The event was organized by the Midtown Brownstones residents, who live just west of Midtown Square (corner of Goddard and Pardee roads). The group was inspired by the residents of the nearby Rose Garden subdivision, who created a certified way station for the Monarch butterfly.



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- Just recently secured federal stimulus money to add three **ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS**.
- Prepared and executed eight consecutive **BALANCED BUDGETS, ensuring NO EMPLOYEE LAYOFFS OR CUTS IN CITY SERVICES**.
- **DEMOLISHED MORE THAN 260** unsafe, abandoned structures throughout the city.
- **UPDATED THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN** and initiated downtown revitalization projects.
- **WORKED WITH THE COMMUNITY** to improve parks and recreation programs, and maintain them at an even higher level of service.
- Created more than **3,000 NEW LOCAL JOBS** and helped retain over 5,000 existing jobs in our city.
- **DEFEATED THE INJECTION WELLS** that put our community at risk.
- **STOPPED AN UNNECESSARY RUNWAY** from devastating our community.
- **BROUGHT IN MORE THAN \$5.8 MILLION** in grants and stimulus funds to strengthen our community and create jobs.
- Work to **BRING MORE HIGH-TECH, 21ST-CENTURY JOBS** and investments to Romulus.
- Fight **TO ATTRACT A WORLD-CLASS CASINO**, as approved by Romulus voters in 2003, to generate thousands of jobs and new revenue for the city and schools. Governor Granholm supports the casino, and we are working with President Obama's Administration to seize this important opportunity.
- Continue to **DEMOLISH** unsafe buildings and cite properties with ordinance violations.
- Continue our **CLEAN SWEEP PROJECT** and citywide beautification efforts with the help of Councilman LeRoy Burcroff.
- Continue working with Councilman Bill Wadsworth to make a **NEW ANIMAL SHELTER** a reality.
- Continue to **STRENGTHEN OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**.
- Continue to **IMPROVE OUR PARKS SYSTEM, ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**.
- Continue to **FIGHT AIRPORT EXPANSION** projects that negatively impact our neighborhoods.
- Continue working with the film industry to partner with **ROMULUS FOR FILM PRODUCTIONS**.
- Continue to **FIGHT FOR GRANT AND STIMULUS OPPORTUNITIES** for our city.

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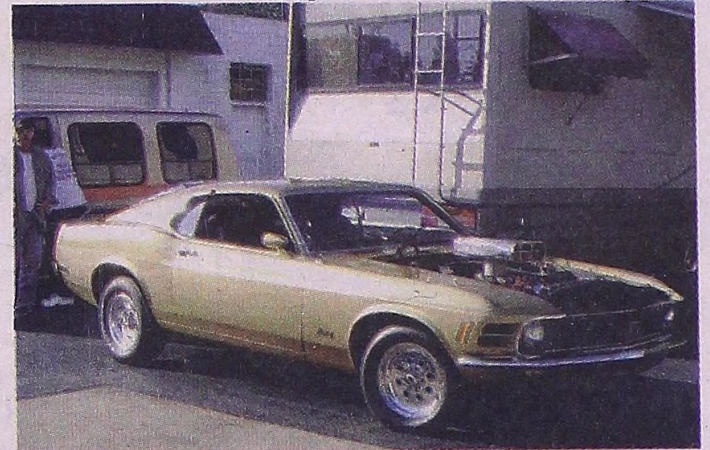
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Metro Airport's Full-scale Emergency Response Drill Simulated Plane Crash



Among the vehicles used in the Wayne County Airport Authority's recent emergency response exercise were two new ambulances that were acquired last spring. The ultramodern vehicles – one of which is pictured above – are equipped with four-wheel drive, and are specially designed to perform off-road in areas like DTW's airfield. The ambulances also feature a full complement of state-of-the-art medical equipment like hydraulic stretchers.

On August 14, the Wayne County Airport Authority, in coordination with more than 40 community and business partners, practiced a full-scale emergency response procedure that would be implemented in the event of a mass-casualty aircraft disaster at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW).

"Air travel remains one of the safest means of transportation available, and Friday's drill was an important part of the Airport Authority's commitment to its mission of providing safe and secure air transportation facilities for the benefit of our customers," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "In the unfortunate and infrequent event of a major aircraft disaster, having a well-rehearsed emergency response plan is critical to saving lives."

As part of its certification requirements under Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139, the WCAA is required by the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct such a full-scale emergency response exercise at least once every three years. The drills are designed to ensure the airport's preparedness to respond in the event of an aircraft disaster, and provide an opportunity to thoroughly review and enhance its emergency response procedures.

The scenario for this year's exercise simulated the airport's response to an aircraft crash landing on the southeast corner of the airport property near the airport's largest storm water retention pond. The exercise provided an opportunity to simulate both land and water rescue, as well as firefighting, emergency medical services, and coordinated activities by airport police,

airfield operations, public affairs, emergency management, and airline teams.

The exercise was supported by a broad base of community organizations – some of which would realistically play a role in such a disaster response effort, and others that generously donated the use of space and/or other resources to support the exercise itself.

Organizations participating in and/or supporting Friday's exercise included Delta Air Lines, Wayne County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Wayne County Department of Public Service, Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office, City of Romulus, City of Dearborn, Canton Township, Disaster Area Recovery Team, Western Wayne Fire Mutual Aid, Downriver Fire Mutual Aid, NOMADS World Travel Club, Little Caesars Pizza, Salvation Army, Health Emergency Medical Services, Superior Ambulance, Medic One Ambulance, Rapid Response EMS, HealthLink Ambulance, Community EMS, DMCare Ambulance, Beaumont Medical Transportation, Huron Valley Ambulance, The Metropolitan Hotel, Masters Green, and Allied Career Institute.

Representatives from an additional 20 organizations participated on scene to help guide the scenario. □

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Arizona Wins Junior League World Series



Members of the Scottsdale, Arizona team waited at home plate to greet Lucas Jacobi, whose home run in the Junior League World Series final helped his team beat Aruba, 9-1, on August 22. The JLWS, held each year at Taylor's Heritage Park, pits the best of America's 13- and 14-year-olds against those from countries around the world.

Wings, TFD Join on Smoke Detectors

The Detroit Red Wings have joined the Taylor Fire Department in emphasizing the importance of smoke detectors.

The Red Wings recently distributed 1,300 detectors to fire officials from Taylor and six other agencies. Most of the devices were collected at Wings games in December.

Red Wings standout Henrik Zetterberg, the spokesman for the team's annual smoke detector collection, presented hundreds of the detectors to Taylor Fire Chief Vince Fedel and Fire Marshal John Hager. Several other fire departments also participated. Zetterberg matched the total number of detectors collected at Wings games with a personal donation.

Taylor firefighters distribute the detectors, free of charge, to Taylor residents who can't afford the devices for their own homes.

The devices are available at the Midtown Fire Station (23345 Goddard Road).

"I am happy to again be part of such an important and worthwhile program," Zetterberg said. "House fires are tragedies, but in many cases they can be prevented."

Hager cautioned that smoke detectors are effective only if they are installed, maintained, and have a working battery.

"Smoke detectors should be tested monthly and replaced every 10 years," said Hager. "I urge the community to contact their local fire department if they have questions about fire protection equipment."

He added, "The Taylor Fire Department would like to thank Henrik Zetterberg, public relations director Kelly Kearly, and the Red Wings organization for all that they do for the communities." □



Henrik Zetterberg of the Detroit Red Wings presented just a portion of the smoke detectors to Taylor Fire Chief Vince Fedel and Fire Marshal John Hager. The presentation was made at Joe Louis Arena. Photo courtesy of the Detroit Red Wings

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 4.

Belleville

Historic French Landing Dam and Powerhouse Tour

In 1924-1925, the Detroit Power and Light Company built a dam across the Huron River in Van Buren Township at French Landing, creating Belleville Lake. This operating dam is rarely open to the public, so don't miss this chance to take an inside, guided tour and see it in action!

The tour will be offered on Saturday, August 29*, from noon to 5 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for age 16 and over and \$5 for ages 6-15; ages 5 and under admitted free.

Tickets for the tour are available at the Belleville Area Museum (405 Main Street), Van Buren Township Hall (46425 Tyler Road), Belleville City Hall (6 Main Street), Fred C. Fischer Library (167 4th Street), and Barber Bob's (151 Main Street), or by calling Cathy Horste, Van Buren Township historian, at 734-697-3662.

*Rain date: Sunday, August 30

New Boston

St. Stephen School Taking Applications for Applefest Craft Show

St. Stephen School (18834 Huron River Drive) is currently seeking applicants for its annual Applefest Craft Show, to be held Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, October 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booth rental is \$70 for both days. Electricity and tables will be available for an additional charge. Both direct sellers and crafters are welcome.

Call Maria (734-753-5999) or Gina (734-941-3527) for information.

Romulus

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for future discussions include:

- *Something To Kill For* by Susan Holtzer (September 14),
- *The Shack* by William P. Young (October 12),
- *What Was Lost* by Catherine O'Flynn (November 9),

- *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama (December 14), and
- *Forward From Here* by Reeve Lindbergh (January 11, 2010).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Romulus Democratic Club Meets

The Romulus Democratic Club usually meets at the UAW Hall, Local 174 (29841 Van Born Road) on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Next meeting date: September 16.

New members welcome.

Spaghetti Dinner Benefits Schonscheck

A Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser to benefit Nancy Schonscheck – a lifetime Romulus resident who needs some very expensive medication to continue her courageous fight against cancer – will be held at Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga Street) on Friday, September 25, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12. Call Jean Brown (734-658-6834), Cheryl Lance (734-525-1044) or Linda Youtsey (734-218-0554).

Pig Roast, Barn Dance, & Bonfire

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (11280 Ozga Street) is planning a Pig Roast, Barn Dance, & Bonfire on Saturday, September 26, from 4:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Highlights of the event will include a dinner of pulled pork, baked potato, corn on the cob, cole slaw, dessert, and drink (5 to 8 p.m.), as well as live entertainment featuring Channel 6 (7 to 11 p.m.). Guests should bring their own lawn chairs to sit around the evening bonfire. A cash bar will serve beer and wine.

Dinner tickets (limited to 250) will be sold in advance at the parish office and after weekend liturgies for a cost of \$13; dinner tickets may also be sold at the door for \$15. Tickets for admission without dinner are \$5 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Free CPR Class Offered

The Romulus Fire Department is hosting an American Heart Association Family and Friends CPR class for Romulus residents, *free of charge*. The class will teach adult, child, and infant CPR through lecture, videos, and manikin practice, with a focus on one-person CPR and management of complete airway obstruction. Students will receive an AHA participation card. (Note that this is *not* a certification card.)

Class will be held in the training room at Fire Station #4 (28777 Eureka Road) on Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m., with a 30-minute break at noon. Class size is limited to 15 participants. Minor students must be at least 14 years old and accompanied by an adult.

For information, or to register, contact the administrative offices of the Romulus Fire Department at 734-941-8585.

Fire Department To Host Open House

The Romulus Fire Department will host an Open House at Fire Station #2 (7221 Middlebelt) and Fire Station #4 (28777 Eureka) on Saturday, October 4.

Both stations will be open to the public, and vehicles and equipment will be on display from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Firefighters will be handing out fire-safety materials and participating in various demonstrations throughout the day. Youngsters can look for special guest appearances by Romulus's very own Fire Pup!

For information, call 734-941-8585.

Weekly Flea Markets, Cruise Nights

Weekly events at Juliann's Coney Island (30763 Eureka Road) benefit the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund while offering free fun for participants.

The first, a parking-lot flea market, is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday. Free spaces are available to all on a first-come/first-served basis.

A second fund-raiser, Cruise Night (aka Hot Rods, Hogs, and Dogs), is sure to become a summer favorite for people who like one or more of the titled offerings. Highlights of the events, held each Monday from 4 to 8 p.m., include DJ music, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles.

For information, call 734-942-7965.

Taylor

Butterfly Day

Learn more about some of nature's most beautiful creatures when the Heritage Park Petting Farm presents Butterfly Day on Saturday, August 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission prices apply, and activities will take place rain or shine. Flutterby Faces Face Painters will be on hand to transform children into butterflies and more for an additional fee. There will be a story corner and refreshments for all to enjoy. Children can create their own butterfly crafts.

The program is a collaboration between the Taylor Conservatory Foundation, the Taylor Garden Club, and the South-eastern Michigan Butterfly Association.

For information, call the Petting Farm at 734-374-5946.

"A Lawn Chair Gospel Musical"

The Greater Grace Temple-Taylor Music Ministries will present "A Lawn Chair Gospel Musical" at the church (24111 Koths Street) on Saturday, September 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The "musical outreach offering people hope" will be presented by the Greater Grace Temple Mass Choir and Praise Team. Special guest performers will include Cassandra McDonald, harpist Brenda K. Sanders, songwriter and composer Danny Reynolds, Edgar Dew with his sax and vibes, and Sherrill Shauntee.

Lawn chairs and blankets are advised.

For information, call 313-295-4472.

"Freezing and Dehydrating Techniques"

"Freezing and Dehydrating Techniques" – the final class in the "Preserve It Yourself" summer enrichment series offered by the Taylor Conservatory Foundation – will be held at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy Street) on Thursday, September 17, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.


Cost is \$15.

For information, or to register, call the Taylor Conservatory at 888-383-4108.

New Farmer's Market Now Open

The rapidly growing Taylor Farmers Market, located outside the Sheridan Community Center at Heritage Park (12111 Pardee Road), is open from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Featured products include produce, plants, crafts, and artisan items.

Farmers, vendors, and volunteers interested in participating in the market must apply and be approved. Applications are available from Shirley Moore at the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (313-843-2550). Sponsorship is welcomed.



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9/11 Blood Drive

The City of Romulus will commemorate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, with its annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive, during which participants may make their donation on behalf of either the Romulus Police Department or the Romulus Fire Department. The event will be held at the Romulus Senior Center beginning at 9 a.m. Call 734-955-4120 at least 24 hours in advance to make an appointment.

Bowling Meeting

Seniors interested in participating in a fall bowling league are invited to attend a mandatory informational meeting to be held at the Center on Tuesday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m. Male bowlers are especially needed. For more information, call Mary Dolencic (734-721-3708).

"Sock It To Me"

The Senior Center will be collecting socks – any size, color, and style – for donation to human services organizations this fall. Donations may be dropped off at the Center during regular business hours in October and November.

Holiday Card-making

The Romulus Senior Center's next card-making class will be held on Monday, September 28, at 1 p.m. Participants will have an opportunity to make 4 cards with a Halloween and/or Thanksgiving theme. Cost is \$10. Preregistration is required.

Lunch Out

The Center's next "lunch out" destinations will be Southgate's Family Dining on Tuesday, September 22. The bus will depart at 11 a.m. Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Shopping Trips

The Romulus Senior Center bus travels to area shopping destinations like Meijer and Kmart on the first three Mondays of each month (except holidays). Transportation is free. Space is limited; preregister at least 24 hours in advance.

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered by the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bingo (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- crochet classes (Wednesdays, 10 a.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- painting (Fridays, 12:30 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m., at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Volunteers Needed

The Romulus Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help pack food for its Meals on Wheels program. Hours of operation are weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m.

Get The Communicator

The Romulus Senior Center's newsletter, *The Communicator*, is chock-full of information about special events, trips, and support services. To receive a copy in your mailbox each month, free of charge, call the Center.

Taylor

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Staying Cool in a Power Outage

The friendly staff at the Ford Activity Center would like to remind seniors that the Center is available as a "cooling station" whenever there is a power outage.

Call the Center for more information.

Registration for Fall Classes

Registration for the Center's fall classes will begin on Tuesday, September 8. For a complete listing of available programs, pick up a brochure after September 8.

The 12-week class schedule will begin the week of September 21.

Michigan Renaissance Festival

Enjoy wine-tasting, a horseshoes competition, a long bow competition, full-armor jousting, and much more at the Michigan Renaissance Festival Harvest Huzzah. The bus will leave the Center at approximately 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, and return at about 5 p.m.

A cost of \$19.50 covers transportation and admission. Preregistration required.

A Funny Thing Happened...

The Senior Center is planning a trip to see the Southgate Community Players' production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. The bus will depart at 5 p.m. on Friday, September 11, and return at approximately 10 p.m.

Cost is \$17 plus dinner at Sabina's. Advance registration is required.

Motor City Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to Motor City Casino is for you! A chartered bus will depart from the Ford Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

Cost is just \$2. Space is limited; sign up early! ☐

"Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

New faces are welcome!

Watercolor Workshops

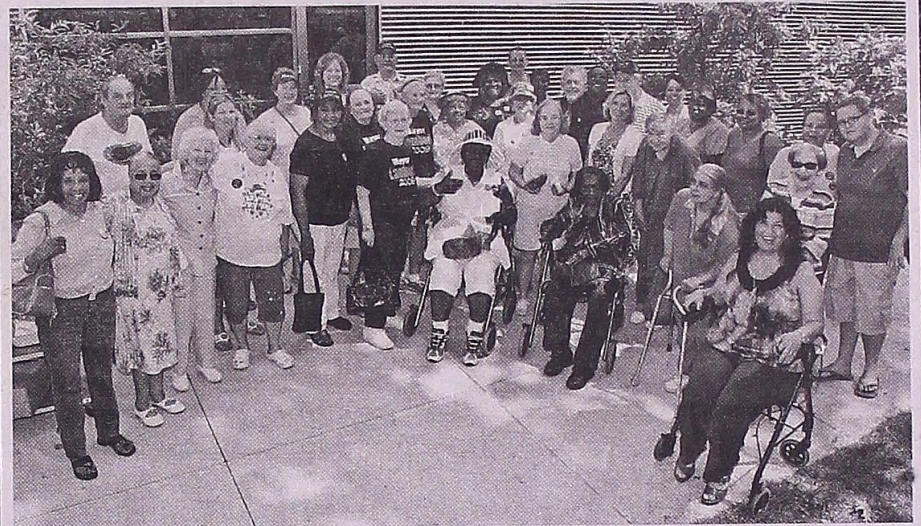
A drop-in Watercolor Workshop is held at the Center each Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost per class is \$7 plus supplies (bring your own or pay an extra \$1.50).

Beat the Heat: Leave the Cooking to Somebody Else!

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation. ☐

Annual Picnic Celebrated Summer Season



The Romulus Senior Center's annual picnic – held August 11 – featured fun, games, and traditional alfresco fare. Photo by R. E. Kadau

New Technologies Improve Disability Process

By Rufus Gaston, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Metropolitan Detroit

In March, Social Security became the first government agency to use the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN). This initiative will cut the time it takes Social Security to get medical records – from weeks or months to only minutes – for people who apply for disability benefits. Initially, this will affect a small number of the people applying for disability benefits, but it will gradually expand.

This year, Social Security will handle almost three million disability claims a year, and make over 15 million requests for medical records from over 900,000 medical providers. Providers have a number of options to respond to these requests, but all require manual intervention before evidence can be entered into Social Security's electronic disability folder.

Using the NHIN, when an applicant lists certain medical facilities as treating sources, Social Security's system automatically sends an electronic message to the hospital's system requesting the medical record and providing the patient's authorization. The hospital's system automatically responds. Within minutes, the medical evidence is available for evaluation.

In addition, we've identified medical codes that match portions of 43 conditions in our medical listings. The agency's computer system analyzes the data for these codes after receiving hospital records, and alerts the disability decision maker so the case can be processed more quickly.

We at Social Security are doing our part to make the disability determination process more efficient for those who depend on it. You can do your part, too. If you need to apply for disability benefits, do it online. You can learn about Social Security disability benefits, take advantage of our online disability planner, and even apply for your benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. You don't have to complete the application all in one sitting; you can take a break and log back on to complete it later without starting over. Also, you're able to check the status of your pending application online after you've submitted it.

With innovative new technologies like the NHIN, medical codes, and the online application, Social Security is working to reverse the growing disability backlog and reduce the time it takes to make a decision. To learn more about disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov and select the "Disability" button along the top banner. ☐

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